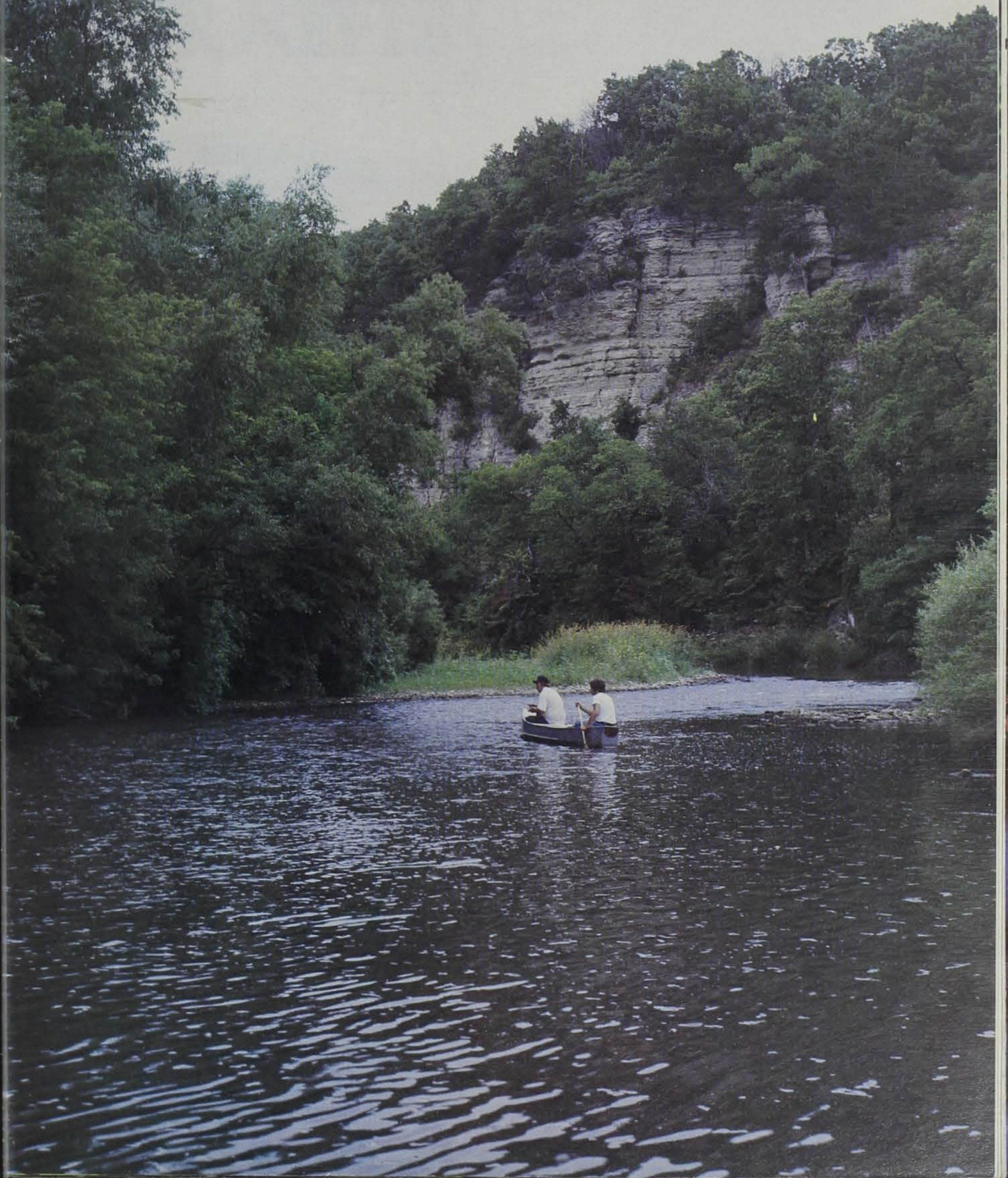


Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA
Historical Building
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

APR 23 1982
APRIL 1982



Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

MAGAZINE

Volume 41, No. 4 • April 1982

STAFF

Roger Sparks, *Editor*
Julius Satre, *Managing Editor*
Ron Johnson, *Photographer*
Kenneth Formanek, *Photographer*
Larry Davis, *Writer*
Larry Pool, *Graphic Artist*

CONTENTS

- 2 UPPER IOWA RIVER
- 5 THE HUNTER
- 8 LEDGES TRAIL
DEVELOPMENT
- 11 REDISCOVERING
LEDGES
- 13 TROPHY TURKEYS
- 15 CLASSROOM CORNER

Front Cover: Scene on the Upper Iowa River in Winneshiek County. Photo by Ken Formanek

Back Cover: Spring Quail painting by Patrick J. Costello of Maquoketa.

THE IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Carolyn T. Wolter, *Des Moines, Chairman*; John D. Field, *Hamburg, Baxter Freese, Wellman*; Richard W. Kemler, *Marshalltown*; Donald E. Knudsen, *Eagle Grove*; Marian Pike, *Whiting*; F. Richard Thornton, *Des Moines*.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Larry J. Wilson, *Director*; Robert Fagerland, *Deputy Director*

DIVISION CHIEFS: Allen Farris, *Fish and Wildlife*; Stanley C. Kuhn, *Division of Administration*; John M. Stokes, *Lands and Waters*.

SECTION SUPERINTENDENTS: Tom Albright, *Engineering*; Joe Brill, *Parks*; Robert Barratt, *Wildlife*; James Mayhew, *Fisheries*; Roy Downing, *Waters*; Lester Fleming, *Grants-in-Aid*; Gene Hertel, *State Forester*; Rich McGeough, *Law Enforcement*; Gene Geissinger, *Accounting*; Doyle Adams, *County Conservation Boards*; Arnie Sohn, *Planning*; John Beamer, *Land Acquisition*; Ross Harrison, *Information and Education*.

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST (USPS268-780), is published monthly by the Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579, manuscripts, mail items) to the above address. Subscription price: one year \$3.00; two years \$5.00; four years \$8.00. Second class postage paid at Des Moines, Iowa and other points.

Floating and Fishing THE UPPER



The Upper Iowa is one of the most scenic rivers in the United States. In addition it has excellent fish populations and provides some of the best small-mouth bass angling in Iowa. This story should provide assistance to anglers and canoeists who are unfamiliar with the Upper Iowa and wish to enjoy one of Iowa's most unique and treasured streams.

River users are reminded that the Upper Iowa is classified a non-meandered waterway except for the lower nine miles. This means that the stream bed and adjacent banks are the property of the owner of the land through which the stream flows. If the same individual owns property on both sides of the river the property line may be fenced. This may cause slight inconvenience.

Remember, the landowner is required by law to construct a fence across a non-meandered stream to keep livestock within his property lines. Permission must be obtained to conduct activities on shore.

The float times listed are the minimum necessary to negotiate the given segment. These times are subjective and depend on water conditions, equipment, planned activities, and the canoeist's skill. Fishing, sightseeing, picnicking, or low water conditions will considerably lengthen these times.

Serious anglers should take note of the relative use intensity on the various river segments. Angling for smallmouth bass and channel catfish can be significantly poorer on those segments of the river that are heavily used by canoeists. The additional noise and movement of the canoes near the fish results in reduced success. Therefore, segments three, four and five are likely to produce the poorest angling during busy summer months while segments two and six through ten will probably provide the best angling experience. The habitat in the upper segments will attract anglers wishing to fish a rapid, small stream while the lower stretches are for the slower, wide-pool bass enthusiast or the angler seeking channel catfish.

IOWA RIVER

By Gaige Wunder

PHOTOS BY KEN FORMANEK



Segments one and two are the longest trips normally taken on the river. This section is typified as small prairie stream with low, cut-banks, sand to rubble bottom and an indistinct valley. The first segment is bordered primarily by cropland and pasture. A narrow timber strip borders the stream through a majority of the second segment and the stream valley is somewhat deeper. Rate of fall in this section is the highest encountered on the river. Angling for smallmouth is best immediately below the dam at Lime Springs and around brush piles and below riffles on through the section. Trout are often caught near several spring sites. Camping is available at Lime Springs and Kendallville.

Segments three, four, and five make up the most heavily used section of the river. This section contains the most scenic views of high limestone bluffs and timbered hillsides on the river which accounts for the high usage. Angling is only fair through this section because of high canoe traffic and is not recommended during June, July, and August for

the serious angler. Access is best from county parks, state areas, and bridge sites. Overnight primitive camping is available on state areas marked with white-on-green public hunting signs.

Segments six, seven, and eight offer some of the best and most varied fishing on the river. Segment six runs through and below Decorah and is excellent for small-mouth bass. Trout can occasionally be caught below Twin Springs, Dunning Springs, and the mouth of Trout Run. Segments seven and eight each contain an old power dam. Smallmouth fishing is very good in segment seven along the base of the bluffs and some channel catfish are present under snags. In segment eight, angling for smallmouth, walleye, sauger, white bass, and northern pike is productive at various times just below the lower dam. Channel catfishing is very good further through the segment around snags or brush piles. The entire section is bordered by croplands and some timbered hillsides. Water velocity is significantly slower and silt is much more prevalent on the

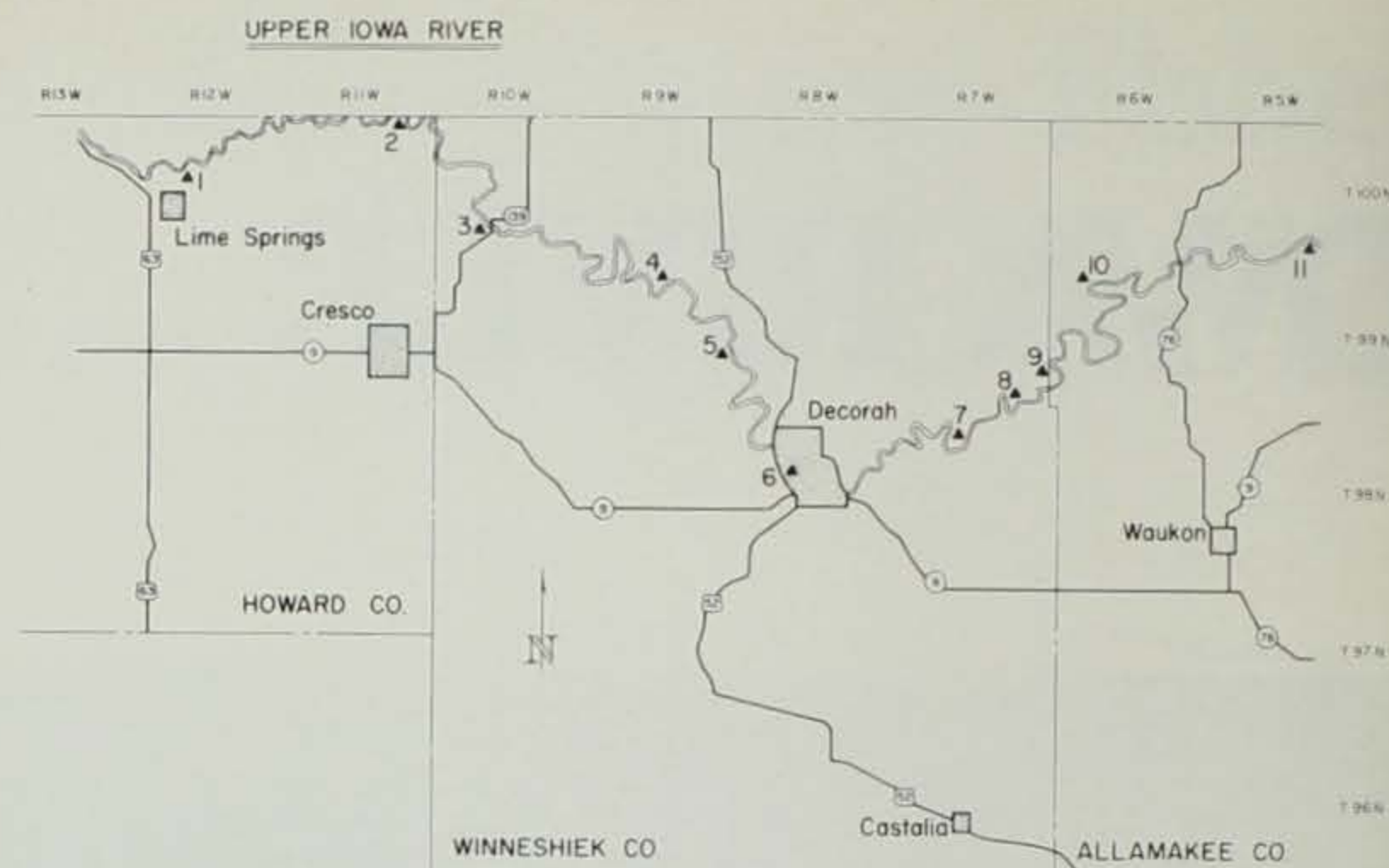
stream bottom. Access is available at bridge sites and at many state-owned tracts through this section. Primitive camping is allowed on the state areas.

Segments nine, ten, and eleven make up the lower river section. Current velocities are slow, pools are large and quiet. Catfish take over as the primary sport fish. Fishing large snags and brush piles is good and drifting live baits just below riffles is effective. Smallmouth are present in the large pools and around large rocks. Access is poorest on these segments and is available only at county bridge sites. Primitive camping is available at the Canoe Creek Access or at the State Highway 76 bridge site.

Please respect local landowner's property and fences. Ask permission before entering private land. Do not litter.

Gaige Wunder is a fisheries management biologist stationed at the Decorah Trout Hatchery. He began his career with the Commission in 1969.

Continued on Page 4



Continued from Page 3

Segment Number	Name	Relative use	Banks & valleys	Bottom type	Fishery		Intermediate bridges or points of interest	Time	Total time
					Species	Habitat			
1	Lime Springs-Florenceville	Low	Low, cut banks; some woods, much open pasture and row crop in valley	Sand & gravel, silt in pools shifting sandbars	SMB, fair	Long, shallow pools, fish brush piles	Bridges-Springs-	1:55, 4:30, 6:45 3:45	7:15
2	Florenceville-Kendallville	Medium	Low, cut banks; some low timbered bluffs	Sand & gravel, some large rocks and large pools	SMB, very good	Long pools, fish head of pools or around rocks	Bridges - Springs - Bigalk Creek -	2:00, 2:15, 2:35, 4:00 1:25, 4:50 2:35	5:00
3	Kendallville-Bluffton	High	Low, cut banks to high vertical limestone bluffs	Sand & gravel, some rubble & large rocks	Trout, fair	Fish below spring sites	Bridges-Springs-Coldwater Creek-	3:45, 4:55, 6:05 2:25, 3:45 4:35	6:30
4	Bluffton-Smith Bridge	Medium-High	Low, cut banks to some timbered bluffs	Rubble to large rocks; some silt and sand	SMB, fair	Deep holes, fish along bluffs and snags	Bridges Springs-	None 0:50	2:15
5	Smith Bridge-Twin Springs (Decorah)	Medium	Low, cut banks to timbered hillsides	Rubble, large rocks and sand	Trout, fair	Fish at Casey Springs	Bridges-Springs-Casey Creek-10 Mile Creek-	0:40, 1:20, 2:00, 3:05 0:25 (Malanaphy), 2:05 0:05 1:00	4:15
6	Twin Springs-Upper Dam	Low	Low, cut banks; some diking and dredging. Wide valley below Decorah	Sand to rubble; silt above dam	SMB, good	Fish through and below Decorah, off rip-rap or in deep holes	Bridges-Springs-Trout Run Creek-	0:15, 0:45, 2:00, 3:00, 3:10 None 1:15	4:45
7	Upper Dam-Lower Dam	Low	Low, cut banks; Some timber and moderate bluffs	Some rocks and rubble; silt more prevalent	Trout, good	Fish below Twin Springs, Dunning's Spring or Trout Run	Bridges-Springs-Trout River Creek-Coon Creek-	0:55 None 0:55 1:45	1:45
8	Lower Dam-Canoe Creek Access	Low	Moderate timber to high bluffs; some cut banks toward Canoe, CK. Access	Rock & rubble below dam; some silt below	SMB, good	Fish below dam for variety of species	Bridges-Springs-	0:45, 0:50 None	2:00
9	Canoe Creek Access-Iverson Bridge	Medium	Steep, wooded hillsides; some low croplands with secluded farms	Silt and sand with some large rocks	CC, fair	Fish snags	Bridges-Springs-Patterson Creek-	1:25 None 1:25	4:00
10	Iverson Bridge-Lonnings Landing	Medium	Steep wooded hillsides to low, cut banks on flood plain croplands	Large rocks and deep pools	SMB, very good	Fish deep water below snags or riffles for both species	Bridges-Springs-	None None	2:00
11	Lonnings Landing-French Creek Bridge	Low	Low, cut banks with few timbered hillsides with wide flood plain	Some rubble; silt in most areas	SMB, exc.	Fish deep water below snags or riffles for both species	Bridge-Springs-Bear, Waterloo Creeks-Silver Creek-	1:00 None 0:15 1:25	2:15



THE HUNTER

by Roger Sparks

ARTWORK BY PATRICK J. COSTELLO

Awakened by a bold sun, the damp woods yawns and sighs. Moisture from last night's shower rises to greet the beckoning warmth, wafting that almost forgotten fragrance of new life and good earth. It is the first of May; I have found a long stick and I will search for mushrooms.

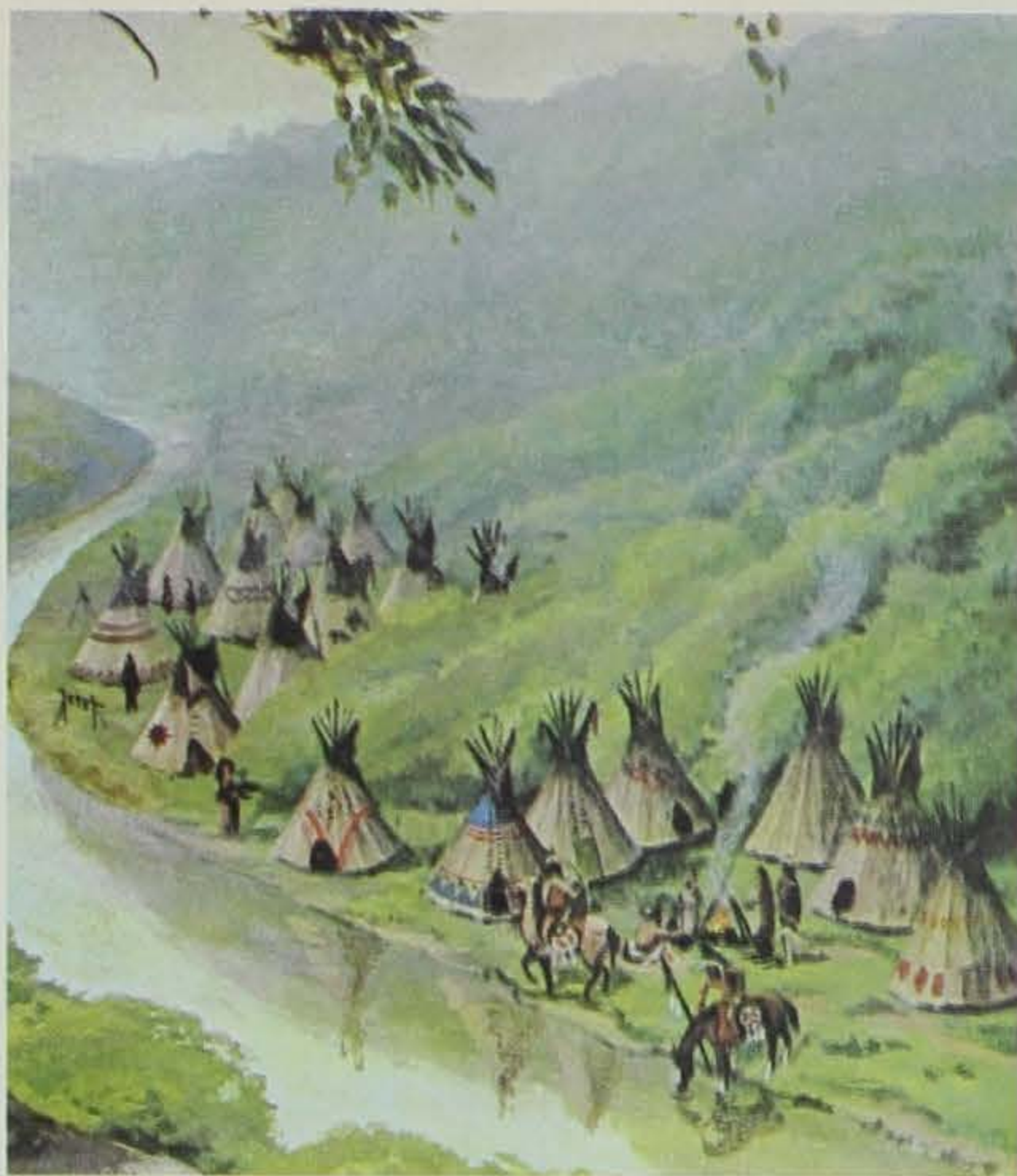
Morels are treasures to folks around here, and competition for them is keen. Still, this is my secret spot, and I am alone in a young timber sprinkled with small, dying elms. It is less conspicuous than the mature woodlots nearby. There is good light, and my hand feels deft on the long stick. I will use my jacket, once my two bread sacks are filled.

I marvel at the effortless flight of a pair of red-tailed hawks exploring the timber edge. Motionless wings catch the updraft of my timbered hill as they barely whisper overhead. Leaning against a brushpile of walnut slash, I ease down on the stump that once held the boughs closer to the hawks. I prop my stick against a sapling no doubt sired by this once-great tree, and the rhythm of rustling leaves, like the ticking of my watch, lulls all perception of today.

After 19 seasons, Round Claw had counted coup and had no fear of venturing forth alone. Camp was on the prairie

behind him, and he rode to where the grassland broke into drainage. Although he had been here only once before, he remembered this timber for its easy access to a variety of wood. On this day, he dismounted and shackled his horse in good grass next to his destination, a timbered ridge overlooking a wooded valley.

The first ridge was approached slowly, with one arrow nocked and others in hand. A Sioux warrior, guided by the wisdom of the Great Spirit and the training of his elders, eased himself to the crown of the hill, learning the terrain beyond before exposing his full presence to enemies or game.



It was the green season, about 1730 on the calendars of an unknown world, and mayapples brushed against bronze ankles as he moved. From his brother the wolf, Round Claw knew to steal slowly and silently into the woods, each step rising and resting in harmony with the breath of the deer on whose path he walked. At the first deadfall, he sat to watch and to listen.

Many springs ago, Round Claw had stood with his father on this very ridge. He had been told the name of each bird, animal, and plant they had encountered and how it should be understood, used, and revered. He had learned quickly and thereafter reported every sighting of a new plant or animal so that the ways of each could be known and used also. In this manner, he had become a fiber woven perfectly into the wilderness. It was here that Round Claw felt the warmth of the Great Spirit and no matter how often he visited such a place, he remained awed by the wonderful differences between these peninsulas of trees and the endless ocean of grass around them.

Although the sap was up and it was past the season for cutting, he made note of this site for its young ash trees perfect for bows and its good stands of gooseberries flush with straight branches ideal for fine arrow shafts. While studying an ample stand of cottonwoods of the right dimensions for the tipi, the young Sioux caught the movement of a cottontail a few yards away,

raised his bow, and neatly pinned the rabbit to the forest floor. It made him think of the night when a very young boy had returned to his tipi bearing such a fat rabbit, his first, which he had killed with a blunt child's arrow. He recalled the scolding his mother had laid upon him for wandering away from camp alone, before sweeping him into her arms where they shared secret tears. He would never forget the pride he felt at hearing his feat replayed by his father over council fires. He remembered these things as he killed a second rabbit. As it too became lifeless among the dead leaves and new shoots, he thought of the smile the meat and soft fur would bring to his wife.

Having picked up the game, Round Claw used his stone hatchet to chip and cut fifteen cottonwood trees, twelve for the tipi and three for the travois on which to transport them. Once these were lashed properly and secured to his horse, Round Claw addressed the Great Spirit giving thanks for the whispering prairies and endless herds of buffalo, the sparkling streams lost in verdant woods, and mostly for the strength and happiness his people enjoyed which was a oneness with this diverse country. Although symbols in his mind could not adequately portray his feelings, he gave thanks from his heart for this wonderful land of excitement, harshness, warmth, and magnificent beauty, this pure wilderness of varying colors, breezes, and moods, this enchanting world of contrast

and constant change. Yet on this day, Round Claw had no vision of the future and could not conceive the dimension of change his people would know.

With her iron knife, maul, and flat stone, Pasque Flower chopped, mashed, and blended chokecherries and raccoon meat to form pemmican. Despite all dancing, the Great Spirit had sent few buffalo back to this prairie where but several seasons ago many could be found. This season, the spring of 1830, raccoon meat was used and she was grateful to have it.

For the first time in her 41 years, Pasque Flower was tired. This was not the pleasant weariness of daily life and work on the plains, but a mind-grogging, frightening exhaustion. It was her age she thought that left her aching for rest so early in the day. She was loway however and she would not yield to it.

She would, instead, carry wood back to the creekside camp for the night fires. Having lost two sons in a nightmarish raid by Oneota, a bitter enemy who became more fierce as game became scarce, she could only summon a dog to escort her. She walked alone, save for the dog, slowly, sadly, and with much pain up the timbered hillside.

Even in her weariness, Pasque Flower gazed at the world around her reverently. These woods were the veins of her people carrying constant sustenance in the form of rabbits, turkey, deer, opossum, and raccoon when the buffalo failed. The woods were refuge from the encroaching, prairie-loving white men. The trees were protection and concealed the smoke of campfires from enemies. The wood provided her tools of life, the fuel for fires, the essence of her art and the foundation of her remaining joy.

Pasque Flower did not notice her own stumbling; she had no fear of the pains from a European virus she had unknowingly hosted and for which she had no immunity. She reclined against a dead oak tree and broke off a piece of decaying bark. Like her, she dreamed, this bark appeared worn out and useless, yet provided life and warmth to others. She peered through the leaves above and found the brightness where she perceived a great hawk. She arose to meet the bird and with the spirit of her people, soared beyond the woods and prairies, beyond the competition and strife of clashing cultures, beyond time itself.

Seeking relief from spring dampness, a fly crawled into the sunlight on Pasque Flower's buckskins, unnoticed by a patient dog.

Edward Jenson opened his eyes and looked at the half dark ceiling. It would soon be time to stoke the wood stove and warm breakfast biscuits and last night's gravy. An early spring nor'wester was brewing, and he was comforted by knowing the house was backed up against the north woodlot.

The forest was important to Edward. It meant heat for the house, fuel for cooking food, and the many pleasant tasks of collecting nuts, shooting squirrels, and finding mushrooms. He contemplated the many times when wood from the timber had paid for seed when no other sources were available. These were just such times and Edward contemplated his financial shape, a poor Iowa farmer trying to hang on under the pressures of the economic catastrophe of the early thirties. Today, however, he would forget his woes and cut firewood.

By 8:00 a.m., the cow had been milked and two horses were pulling Edward and his 15-year-old son David aboard a wagon through the gate into the timber. To Edward, the woods were a family album, drawing bittersweet memories, each bend in the logging trail opening another page in Jenson history. Along the fence next to the house, red mulberry trees flourished and had occasionally been thinned for fence posts. The bur oak and white oak stand a quarter of the way down the ridge had been culled for timbers for the house, although 30 years of new growth had practically hidden the decaying stumps. Near the spring, towering black walnuts, with an occasional

shagbark hickory brought wonderful memories of autumn, of teaching bright-eyed boys how to hunt squirrels, and of family nut-gathering parties. It had never been hard for Edward to refuse a standing offer to buy these fine walnut specimens. He had allowed the sawyer to pull his mill down by the stream and cut lumber for sale and for his own use. While there, he had logged several grand walnuts for sale as veneer. But he would resist harvesting this higher stand for it would always be a family place. As they passed, Edward pointed out several squirrels, and David acknowledged each with keen interest.

Before reaching the confluence of his spring and the big creek below, Edward remembered the place where his father had cut basswood for one neighbor's barn and another's house. The stand seemed none the worse for the experience as new growth had sprouted from the stumps and the trees had already reached considerable dimension. Once on the floodplain, Edward stopped along the creek to water the horses and to point out to David the differences in water clarity between their spring and the big creek below. Although it hadn't rained much lately, the big creek ran brown with silt from neighboring hill-sides which should never have been plowed. It quickly engulfed the gin-clear spring water and David was made to understand about protecting the timber and in turn the soil and water. Although their timber produced fewer dollars than cropland, they talked about other values

measured in family uses and an ancient satisfaction they couldn't capture with words. They began working their way back up the hill, cutting a few dead trees for fuel, and carefully leaving others for raccoons, wood ducks, woodpeckers and future Jensons.

How long have I dreamed? My eyes are open but have seen little, at least of today's world. My legs ache from lack of movement, and the sun has reached the hill. The woods are quiet and I have stayed too long, yet in this remarkable place there is no lateness. My presence and the presence of others like me in this small, real world is natural. My friends the Jensons allow me to use this timber as do they, as did their parents before them, as did the hunters and trappers before them, and the Ioway and Sioux before them. Through it all, the real owners — the birds, animals, trees and shrubs — have lived and died by the sun and the seasons, ignorant of clocks and calendars.

On the ridge beyond the fence, my car is silhouetted against the evening light. I walk slowly, a bit reluctant to forsake this landscape of incredible diversity for one of plowed fields and pavement.

The ground is guarded by shadows, and I must watch my step closely. Just ahead something glows against the darkness. Smiling, I stoop to see a dozen or more pale yellow, sponge-like objects captured in the last few moments of the day. ■



TRAIL REDEVELOPMENT

PHOTO BY ANGELA CORIO



I'M HIKING UP AND DOWN STEEP, WOODED SLOPES. LEAVES CRUNCH BENEATH MY FEET. FROSTY STONE STEPS LEAD TO THE TOP OF THE RIDGE, WHERE A CLUMP OF ASTERS BEND THEIR HEADS TO GREET ME. WALKING HIGH ON THE NARROW RIDGETOP, I SEE FOR MILES. THE SUN BREAKS THROUGH THE TREES, WARMING MY FACE. A CARDINAL'S MORNING SONG SENDS ME ON MY WAY. NOW, MOVING CAUTIOUSLY ALONG THE CANYON RIM, I LOOK DOWN TO SEE PEA'S CREEK MOVING LAZILY TOWARDS THE DES MOINES RIVER. THE MORNING AIR IS CRISP AND IT FEELS LIKE A GREAT DAY FOR HIKING TRAILS AT LEDGES STATE PARK.

BY ANGELA CORIO



PHOTO BY ANGELA CORIO



PHOTO BY ANGELA CORIO

MOST OF THESE TRAILS WERE BUILT 40 YEARS AGO DURING THE DEPRESSION ERA. THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS LAID THE STONE WORK THROUGHOUT THE PARK, WHICH IS AN EXAMPLE OF THEIR FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP. THE NUMBER OF PARK VISITORS HAS INCREASED GREATLY SINCE THE PARK WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED. HEAVY USE AND TIME SHOW THEIR WEAR ON THE TRAILS. EROSION AND TRAIL CUTS MAKE SCARS THROUGHOUT THE PARK. TRAILS AT LEDGES STATE PARK ARE OVERDUE FOR MAJOR REPAIRS.

A COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO CLOSE IMPROMPTU TRAILS AND TO UPGRADE AND REPAIR THE REMAINING TRAILS AS PART OF THE REDEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN FOR THE PARK. STONE STEPS ARE BEING RESET WHERE POSSIBLE. STONE RETAINING WALLS ARE BEING BUILT WHERE NEEDED AND WILL BLEND IN WITH THE EXISTING STONEMWORK. EVERY EFFORT IS BEING TAKEN TO DUPLICATE THE QUALITY AND SENSITIVITY OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS' WORK. NEW STEPS ARE BEING BUILT ON THE STEEP SLOPES TO MAKE HIKING MORE ENJOYABLE, TO PROTECT TRAIL SURFACE AND TO REDUCE SOIL EROSION. THESE STEPS ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED OF RAILROAD TIES WHICH SHOULD EQUAL THE DURABILITY AND BLEND WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE STONE STEPS.

TRAIL WORK WAS STARTED IN THE SUMMER OF 1980. THIS WILL BE AN ONGOING PROJECT FOR THE NEXT 3-5 YEARS. THE UPGRADED TRAILS WILL PROPERLY PROTECT THE FRAGILE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE LEDGES. HIKING WILL BE A MORE PLEASANT EXPERIENCE FOR ONE AND ALL. BUT NOW, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET BACK TO MY HIKING. HAPPY TRAILS!

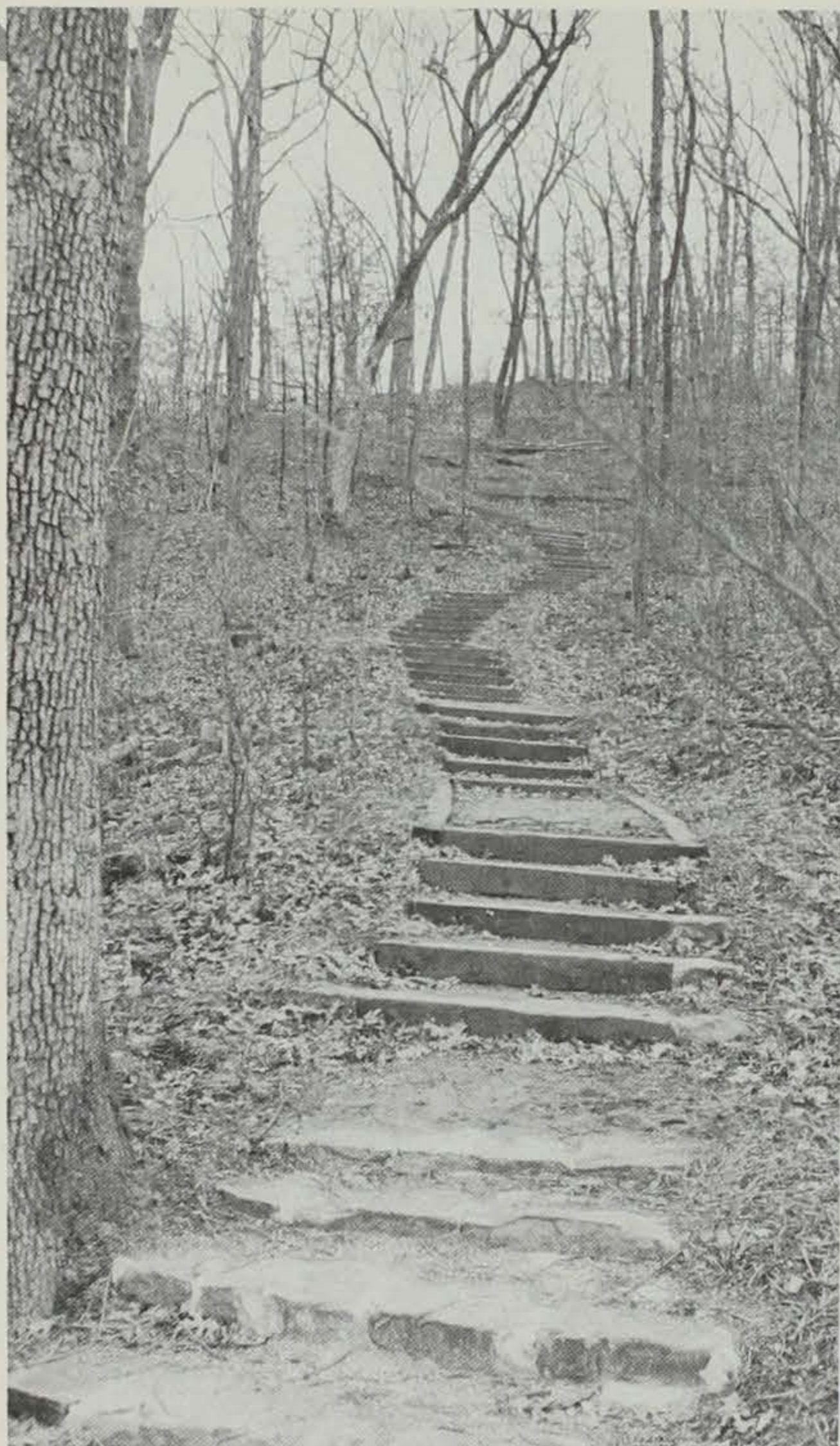


PHOTO BY RON JOHNSON

UPPER LEFT: NEW WOODEN STEPS
CONSTRUCTED IN 1981.

UPPER RIGHT: NEW WOODEN STEPS
AND STONE RETAINING WALL CON-
STRUCTED IN 1980.

CENTER RIGHT: CONSTRUCTION
CREW AT WORK ON TRAIL PROJECT.

LOWER RIGHT: TRAIL WORK IM-
PROVES ACCESS TO EXISTING
OVERLOOK. RETAINING WALLS
HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO
STOP MASSIVE EROSION IN THIS
AREA.

ANGELA CORIO IS AN OUTDOOR
RECREATION PLANNER. SHE
BEGAN HER COMMISSION CAREER
IN APRIL 1979.

PHOTO BY ANGELA CORIO



PHOTO BY ANGELA CORIO



PHOTO BY RON JOHNSON



REDISCOVERING LEDGES

By Ken Smith

PHOTO BY KEN SMITH

Of Iowa's many bits of rare scenery, few can equal Ledges State Park. The topography, geological features, and diverse natural biological communities of Ledges offer dramatic contrasts to the surrounding level and gently rolling agricultural landscape which is characteristic of central Iowa. Impressive sandstone bluffs line the upland streams of Pea's and Davis Creeks as they wind through the scenic canyon area toward the Des Moines River. Steep slopes and rugged ravines are woven throughout the site and are densely covered with oak-hickory, maple-basswood, and bottomland forest associations. Restored tall-grass prairie and remnant prairie patches represent the characteristic landscape which covered three-quarters of the state before settlement. Abundant forms of wildlife inhabit the area and life-sustaining waters of the river, stream, and pond environments support intricate food webs.

Ledges is one of Iowa's oldest state parks. Dedicated in 1924, Ledges' outstanding beauty has inspired and has been cherished by generations of central Iowans. Carl Fritz Henning, the area's first park custodian, described the park this way:

"The Ledges have an attraction all their own — there is something untamed about this scenic piece of woodland that appeals to us, a mystic wildness that lends enchantment to the high sandstone walls, sculptured cliffs, rugged hills, and ravines strewn with glacial boulders."

Carl Fritz Henning, if he were alive, would be dismayed to visit the park today. While the park has grown in size, to 1,117 acres, heavy use has taken its toll, diminishing the beauty of the park's fragile natural features. Also, many of the park's fine original facilities have deteriorated or become inadequate for current park user needs.

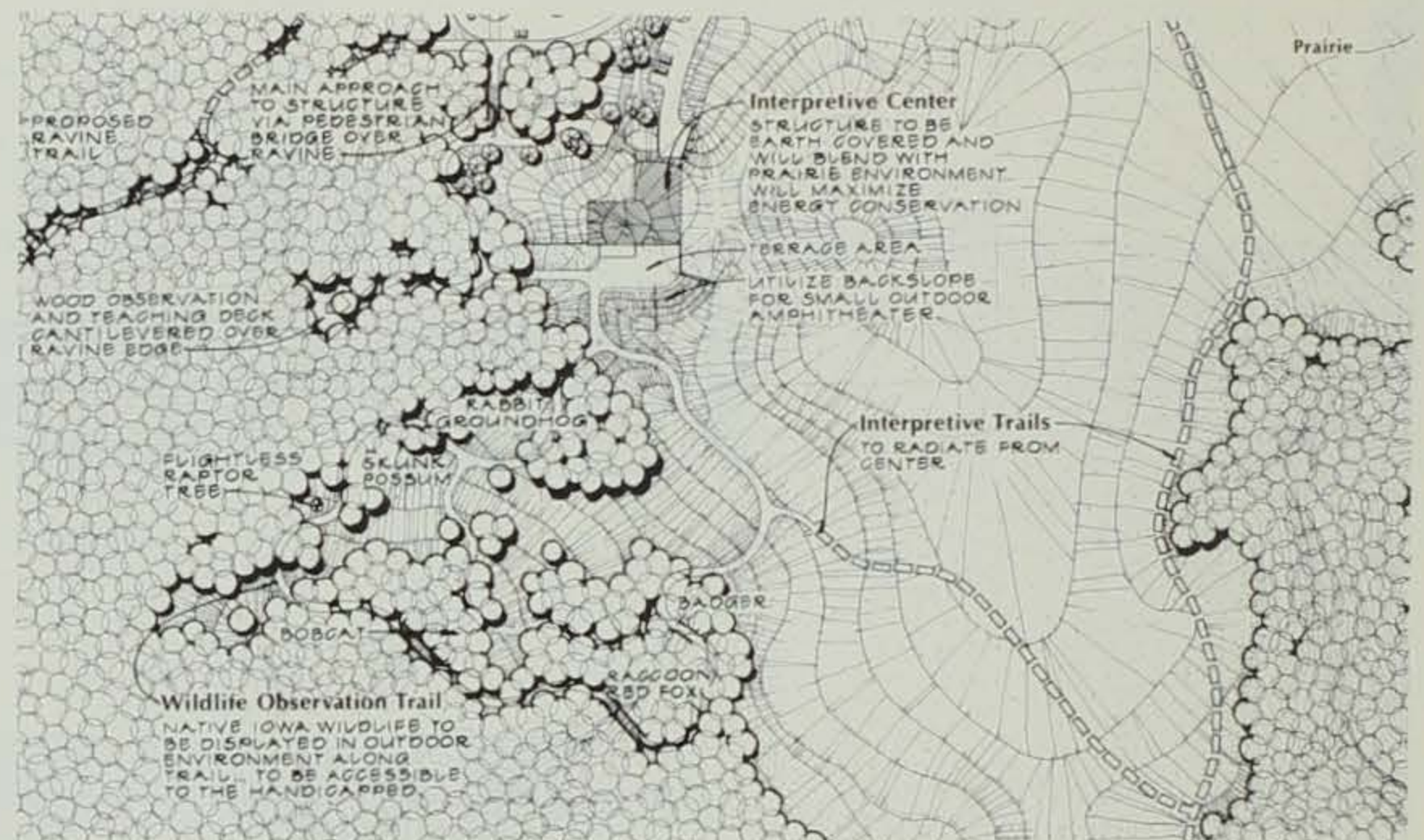


Kenneth Smith is a project planner for the Commission. He has been with the department since January 1979.

Ironically, it was the Saylorville Reservoir which focused the public's attention on the needs at Ledges. As originally proposed by the Corps of Engineers, the reservoir would have further degraded the park's natural integrity by flooding portions of the park for long periods of time. Intense citizen action and public controversy in the 1970's resulted in the federal government modifying their plans for the operation of the reservoir in order to reduce flooding damage to the park. Additionally, several hundred acres of upland timber adjacent to the park was transferred to the State of Iowa by the federal government and several hundred thousand dollars were provided to fund park improvements.

Recognizing the significance of the Ledges as a unique natural area and the severity of deterioration that has occurred over the years and spurred into action by Saylorville Reservoir project, the Iowa Conservation Commission has embarked on an ambitious program to redevelop the park and restore its natural splendor. Guiding the redevelopment work is the goal of protecting the area's unique natural features while improving opportunities for park visitors to enjoy and learn about the natural environment. Trails, picnic grounds, and campgrounds all will be upgraded and modernized. A special shuttle bus is planned to improve access to the park's visually and ecologically sensitive canyon area. Interpretive programs and nature study opportunities will be developed.

The centerpiece of the Commission's plan will be a nature interpretation center and a new wildlife observation area. The proposed interpretive center will be a passive solar, earth-sheltered structure located in the upper ledges between tall-grass prairie and native woodland. Programs for park visitors and school groups will range from basic ecology and nature study to examination and explanation of current conservation issues such as habitat loss, soil erosion, and energy conservation. Located adjacent to the interpretive center, the proposed wildlife observation trail will provide park visitors the opportunity to observe native wildlife species in the naturalistic setting of wooded ridges and upland prairie edge. The concrete cage appearance of the existing wildlife exhibit will be replaced by large enclosures which utilize the terrain and vegetation of the animal's natural habitat. Rather than separating the animal from its environment for observation, the new trail will emphasize the interdependence of wildlife and habitat. Visitors to the center and



new wildlife exhibit will have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of ecology, the life histories of Iowa's wildlife, and the value of Iowa's rich natural resource heritage.

Some funds for this project are already available. Construction work will commence on roads, parking lots, utility systems, and the campground this summer. Trail redevelopment work is entering its third season. Funding of the interpretive center and new wildlife observation area await legislative appropriation. With this major investment in the park's future, it is hoped that Ledges' beauty and ecological integrity will be restored and that central Iowans will once again experience the mystic wonders so eloquently described by Carl Fritz Henning during the early days of the park. ■

Site plan for the proposed interpretive center and new wildlife exhibit. New facilities and programs are proposed which will heighten environmental awareness and promote conservation ethics.



Exterior of the proposed interpretive center. The passive solar, earth-sheltered structure will house a small auditorium, and displays including small burrowing animal exhibit, observational beehive, reptile and amphibian displays, fish exhibit, and displays describing the park's geologic and biologic features.



Wildlife containment area. Large natural habitat enclosures will offer opportunities for park visitors to observe native wildlife species in naturalistic settings.

1981 — Another Great Year for TURKEY HUNTERS

A record number of trophy turkey certificates and patches were sent to successful hunters who bagged bearded birds weighing 23 or more pounds. One of the 176 entries was a new state record — topping the scales at 30 pounds 4 ounces. Dennis Moore of Sherrill took the large gobbler in Clayton County, April 17. His trophy bested the old record set in 1980 by 1 pound 15 ounces. In the All-Time Top Ten category (see accompanying list), five 1981 entries now appear on the list. All in all it was a record setting season!

To qualify for a trophy certificate and patch, you have to bag a bearded wild turkey that tips the scales at a minimum of 23 pounds. All the details are included in your license package. Who knows, this may be your year to bag a trophy wild turkey — good luck!

ALL-TIME TOP TEN

Name and Address	Weight	Date	County Taken
Dennis Moore Sherrill	30 lb. 4 oz.	4-17-81	Clayton
Robert F. Willson Des Moines	28 lb. 5 oz.	4-20-80	Lucas
Ronald D. Brown Burlington	28 lb.	4-22-79	Des Moines
Mark K. Walter Ames	28 lb.	4-14-81	Boone
Bruce Petersen Des Moines	27 lb. 12 oz.	4-29-81	Clarke
Mo Coffman Winterset	27 lb. 8 oz.	4-21-81	Madison
L. N. Ertz Lake Mills	27 lb. 8 oz.	4-24-80	Allamakee
John Hockspeier Alta Vista	27 lb. 8 oz.	4-26-79	Allamakee
Roger Aukes Wellsburg	27 lb. 4 oz.	4-20-80	Lucas
Troy Westrum Stratford	27 lb. 4 oz.	4-22-81	Webster

1981 CERTIFIED TROPHY TURKEYS

Name and Address	Weight	Date	County Taken
Dennis Moore Sherrill	30 lb. 4 oz.	4-17	Clayton
Mark K. Walter Ames	28 lb.	4-14	Boone
Bruce Petersen Des Moines	27 lb. 12 oz.	4-29	Clarke
Mo Coffman Winterset	27 lb. 8 oz.	4-21	Madison
Troy Westrum Stratford	27 lb. 4 oz.	4-22	Webster
Gene Peterson Emmons, MN	27 lb. 2 oz.	4-18	Allamakee
Scott A. Oehl Amana	27 lb.	4-20	Iowa
James Baty Ottumwa	26 lb. 8 oz.	4-17	Appanoose
Tom J. Brislawn Troy Mills	26 lb. 8 oz.	5-9	Linn
Kim Cox Boone	26 lb. 8 oz.	4-23	Boone
Eric Reithmann Amana	26 lb. 8 oz.	5-1	Iowa
Guy E. Tam Panora	26 lb. 8 oz.	4-15	Guthrie
Ronald Bigler Decorah	26 lb. 4 oz.	4-15	Allamakee
Thomas L. Place Janesville	26 lb. 4 oz.	4-15	Jefferson
Jerry L. Roush Ottumwa	26 lb. 3 oz.	4-26	Wapello
Bob Self Moravia	26 lb. 2 oz.	4-14	Appanoose
Howard Shields Lamoni	26 lb. 2 oz.	4-17	Ringgold

Bernett F. Richards New Albin	26 lb. 1 oz.	4-17	Allamakee
Roger L. Blankenship Janesville	26 lb.	4-16	Jefferson
Larry A. Couron Sioux City	26 lb.	4-21	Woodbury
Dave Funkhouser Mason City	26 lb.	4-25	Allamakee
Virgil V. Heaton LeClaire	26 lb.	4-25	Des Moines
Greig D. Jones Ames	26 lb.	4-17	Davis
Dr. David J. Randall Lucas	26 lb.	5-2	Allamakee
Michael Rolling Ames	26 lb.	4-24	Allamakee
Davis Wunnenberg Burlington	26 lb.	4-21	Des Moines
Roger D. Van Gundy Bagley	26 lb.	4-15	Guthrie
Jim Marshall Noma	25 lb. 13 oz.	4-14	Appanoose
R. M. Sovern Burlington	25 lb. 9 oz.	4-24	Des Moines
Todd Bishop Indianola	25 lb. 8 oz.	5-3	Lucas
Bobby M. Jackson Thayer	25 lb. 8 oz.	4-22	Union
Robert Marovets Monona	25 lb. 8 oz.	4-22	Allamakee
Richard E. Benesh Center Point	25 lb. 6 oz.	4-21	Linn
Elmer Burmester New Albin	25 lb. 4 oz.	4-20	Allamakee
Theodore Szemplenski Council Bluffs	25 lb. 4 oz.	4-21	Mills
Thomas F. Tedore Cedar Falls	25 lb. 4 oz.	4-14	Jefferson
Dennis Weiss Burlington	25 lb. 3 oz.	4-15	Des Moines
Ralph C. Allen Des Moines	25 lb. 2 oz.	5-2	Lucas
Robert Livingston Guttenberg	25 lb. 2 oz.	4-22	Clayton
Donald G. Pfeiffer North Liberty	25 lb. 1 oz.	4-24	Johnson
David Albright Waterloo	25 lb.	4-17	Clarke
Randall R. Andrew Osceola	25 lb.	4-17	Clarke
Lucille M. Barnett West Des Moines	25 lb.	4-24	Clarke
Orrin Fetzner Victor	25 lb.	4-22	Lucas
Daniel J. Hogan Harpers Ferry	25 lb.	5-2	Allamakee
Randall M. Lee Burlington	25 lb.	4-16	Des Moines
Mike Lewis Seymour	25 lb.	4-16	Wayne
Thomas J. Marty Dubuque	25 lb.	4-14	Allamakee
Cletus C. McKee Lansing	25 lb.	4-17	Allamakee
Willard Protsman Lansing	25 lb.	4-18	Allamakee
William R. Spaur Bussey	25 lb.	4-14	Lucas
Steve Bartels Grinnell	24 lb. 14 oz.	4-22	Appanoose
George W. Jaques Iowa City	24 lb. 14 oz.	5-3	Clayton
James W. Backman West Des Moines	24 lb. 12 oz.	4-17	Guthrie
Craig A. Buckingham Albia	24 lb. 12 oz.	5-7	Monroe
Larry L. Brown Seymour	24 lb. 8 oz.	5-3	Wayne
Jim Crow Centerville	24 lb. 8 oz.	5-7	Appanoose
Jeff Hall Ankeny	24 lb. 8 oz.	4-23	Lucas
Shane C. Landt Garnaville	24 lb. 8 oz.	4-14	Clayton
Stephen Klinkhammer Dubuque	24 lb. 8 oz.	4-26	Clayton
John M. Nicks Dubuque	24 lb. 8 oz.	4-18	Clayton
Velma Perkey Knoxville	24 lb. 8 oz.	4-20	Clarke
Jim Ruff McGregor	24 lb. 8 oz.	4-24	Clayton
Robert Shoatstall Van Meter	24 lb. 8 oz.	4-17	Lucas
Ken Varland Boone	24 lb. 8 oz.	4-21	Boone
Finis E. Wilcox Cedar Rapids	24 lb. 8 oz.	4-15	Lucas
William J. Shima Audubon	24 lb. 7 oz.	4-20	Guthrie
Jane Inman Van Meter	24 lb. 6 oz.	4-24	Lucas
James W. Wallace Lake View	24 lb. 6 oz.	4-16	Monona
Paul Wendt Avoca	24 lb. 6 oz.	4-24	Monona
James Agan Des Moines	24 lb. 4 oz.	4-17	Madison
Roger Bublit Waukon	24 lb. 4 oz.	4-25	Allamakee
Greg Norlin Anamosa	24 lb. 4 oz.	4-29	Clayton
Dennis Phillips Royal	24 lb. 4 oz.	4-25	Van Buren

Name and Address	Weight	Date	County Taken
Charles Williams West Des Moines	24 lb. 4 oz.	4-19	Lucas
Frank L. Rudish Marion	24 lb. 3 oz.	4-20	Linn
James P. Stoll Clinton	24 lb. 3 oz.	5-2	Jones
Leon Merrick Dubuque	24 lb. 2 oz.	4-14	Dubuque
Edward M. Ostertag Burlington	24 lb. 2 oz.	4-15	Van Buren
Dan Patterson Greenfield	24 lb. 2 oz.	4-18	Union
Ron Blatchford Sioux City	24 lb. 1 oz.	4-18	Monona
Stephen C. Boyd Ankeny	24 lb. 1 oz.	4-25	Lucas
Jeff Roe Keosauqua	24 lb. 1 oz.	4-23	Van Buren
Rich Smith Ida Grove	24 lb. 1 oz.	4-14	Monona
Harold Anderson Carlisle	24 lb.	4-26	Lucas
Nancy Armstrong Humboldt	24 lb.	4-17	Clarke
Frank C. Barnett Blakesburg	24 lb.	4-14	Davis
Dean Bass Waterloo	24 lb.	4-27	Delaware
Steve Boyd Ankeny	24 lb.	4-25	Lucas
Merlyn E. Brown, Sr. Monticello	24 lb.	4-22	Jones
Doug Darling New Albin	24 lb.	4-24	Allamakee
Roger P. Evans Eddyville	24 lb.	4-22	Davis
Robert K. Feeley Cincinnati	24 lb.	4-17	Appanoose
Bob Feller Cedar Rapids	24 lb.	4-14	Clayton
Murray Field Burlington	24 lb.	4-23	Des Moines
Randy Fulton Fairfield	24 lb.	4-14	Jefferson
Daryl Hall Malcom	24 lb.	4-15	Lucas
Doug Luger Dallas Center	24 lb.	5-8	Clarke
Rusty Orcutt Monticello	24 lb.	4-18	Delaware
Scott Peppers Audubon	24 lb.	4-15	Dallas
C. Bruce Perkey Knoxville	24 lb.	4-29	Clarke
Bill Royer Mt. Vernon	24 lb.	4-26	Van Buren
Russell Strong Ames	24 lb.	4-24	Boone
William Taylor Cincinnati	24 lb.	4-15	Appanoose
Ronald Theis Dubuque	24 lb.	4-14	Jones
David White Chariton	24 lb.	4-22	Lucas
F. R. Feller St. Olaf	23 lb. 15 oz.	4-15	Clayton
Meritt Parsons Bettendorf	23 lb. 15 oz.	4-26	Van Buren
William Belknap Mediapolis	23 lb. 14 oz.	4-17	Lee
Tom Long Centerville	23 lb. 14 oz.	5-2	Appanoose
Harold L. McGowan Cedar Rapids	23 lb. 14 oz.	5-3	Iowa
James R. Olson Lansing	23 lb. 14 oz.	4-14	Allamakee
John E. Brackin Waterloo	23 lb. 13 oz.	4-14	Fayette
Greg Fawcett Winthrop	23 lb. 13 oz.	4-24	Clarke
John W. Patterson Mediapolis	23 lb. 13 oz.	4-19	Des Moines
John A. Rose Readlyn	23 lb. 13 oz.	4-18	Clayton
Randy Dettman Garnaville	23 lb. 12 oz.	4-23	Clayton
Lonie Heldenbrand Van Meter	23 lb. 12 oz.	5-7	Guthrie
Charly Stills New Virginia	23 lb. 12 oz.	4-15	Clarke
Jerry T. Oeppling Durant	23 lb. 11 oz.	5-2	Jones
Roger W. Raisch West Des Moines	23 lb. 10 oz.	4-29	Lucas
Dan Koppenhauer Martelle	23 lb. 9-1/2 oz.	4-16	Jones
Richard Bumann Castana	23 lb. 9 oz.	4-15	Monona
Leslie Bateman Cedar Rapids	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-16	Monroe
James Benz Centerville	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-28	Appanoose
M. M. Douglas West Des Moines	23 lb. 8 oz.	5-8	Lucas
W. Keith Drahm Monona	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-21	Allamakee
Marlyn L. Gorder Iowa Falls	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-14	Lucas
Vernie W. Grasty Menlo	23 lb. 8 oz.	5-4	Guthrie
Terry Hobbs West Point	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-28	Lee
Byron Knox Cresco	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-20	Allamakee
Patrick W. Lambert Monticello	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-23	Jones
Albert Logel Muscatine	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-16	Van Buren
J. Wayne Miller Lake Mills	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-14	Allamakee
Bruce G. Mountain New Virginia	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-16	Clarke
Gene Pont Delhi	23 lb. 8 oz.	4-18	Delaware

Continued from Page 13

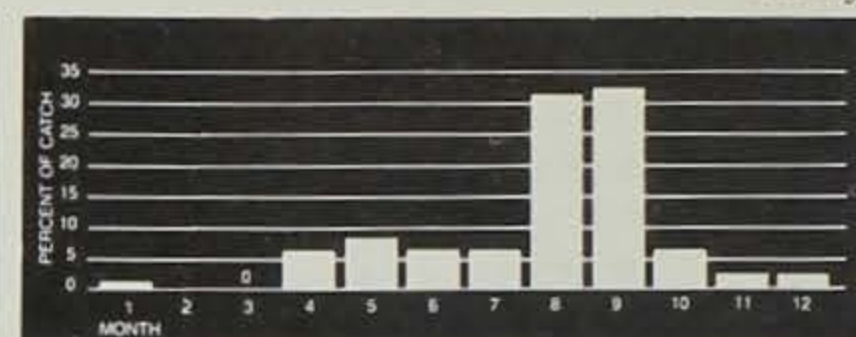
Larry C. DeBow Davenport	23 lb. 7 oz.	4-24	Lucas
Robert L. Harris Cedar Rapids	23 lb. 7 oz.	4-25	Van Buren
Denny B. Draper Ottumwa	23 lb. 6 oz.	4-24	Wapello
Kevin Korman Sumner	23 lb. 6 oz.	4-17	Fayette
Tim Steckelberg Mondamin	23 lb. 6 oz.	5-2	Harrison
Mike Holtkamp Cedar Falls	23 lb. 5 oz.	4-23	Allamakee
Garry L. Fry Van Wert	23 lb. 4 oz.	4-29	Decatur
Steve Knapp Stuart	23 lb. 4 oz.	4-23	Lucas
Brad Nickolisen Moorhead	23 lb. 4 oz.	4-18	Monona
Mark Peitz West Point	23 lb. 4 oz.	4-14	Lee
Scott Peters Reinbeck	23 lb. 4 oz.	4-15	Ringgold
Gary Schabach Victor	23 lb. 4 oz.	4-14	Monroe
Randall Sease Spirit Lake	23 lb. 4 oz.	4-24	Lucas
Allen D. Stahl Lansing	23 lb. 4 oz.	4-21	Allamakee
Bill Dently Farmington	23 lb. 3 oz.	4-14	Lee
Glenn Fowler Melrose	23 lb. 3 oz.	4-17	Appanoose
Fred S. Tisdale Milton	23 lb. 3 oz.	4-20	Van Buren
Wray W. Woolums Fairfield	23 lb. 3 oz.	4-18	Van Buren
John C. Parsons Newton	23 lb. 2 oz.	4-21	Boone
Gary Leppert New Albin	23 lb. 1 1/2 oz.	4-16	Allamakee
Kent Godbeisen Ida Grove	23 lb. 1 oz.	4-26	Monona
Gene "Cork" Battey Muscatine	23 lb.	5-1	Van Buren
Harold A. Bries Guttenberg	23 lb.	4-16	Clayton
Kendall Coleman Kellerton	23 lb.	4-21	Decatur
Gary Crow Centerville	23 lb.	4-27	Appanoose
Roger Delance Soldier	23 lb.	4-23	Monona
Leevis Ericson Garden Grove	23 lb.	4-20	Lucas
Jack Frost Bussey	23 lb.	5-9	Monroe
Dennis L. Grove Monona	23 lb.	5-4	Allamakee
Dean F. Krauer Missouri Valley	23 lb.	4-15	Lucas
Robert L. Martin Des Moines	23 lb.	5-5	Lucas
Dale Mescher Cascade	23 lb.	5-7	Jones
Jamie Neely Missouri Valley	23 lb.	5-2	Harrison
Jerry Price Iowa Falls	23 lb.	4-14	Lucas
Rick D. Stevens Ottumwa	23 lb.	5-2	Davis
Earl Taylor Boone	23 lb.	4-22	Boone
Barry L. Vennard Marshalltown	23 lb.	4-16	Appanoose
Richard E. Watters Davenport	23 lb.	4-29	Lee
Jim C. Woodard Osaka	23 lb.	4-15	Appanoose
David Zellinger Knoxville	23 lb.	4-15	Lucas

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some of the graphs in the "Wall Hanger" article in the March issue were incorrect. The corrected fishing graphs below show the best months for catching trophy fish.

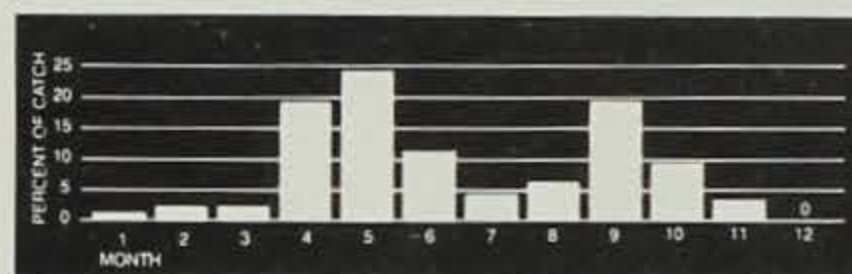
Largemouth Bass



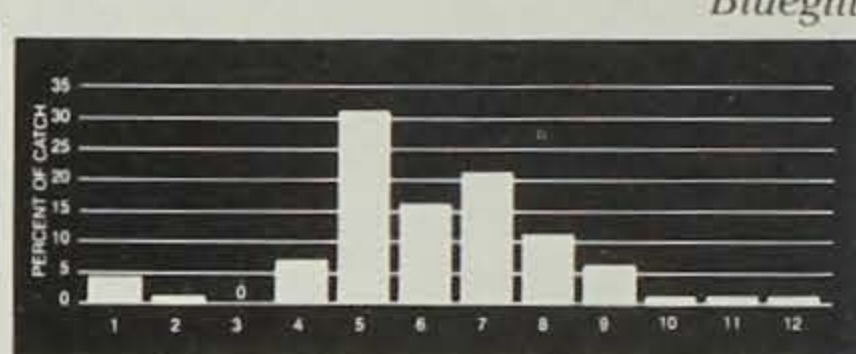
Musky



Smallmouth Bass



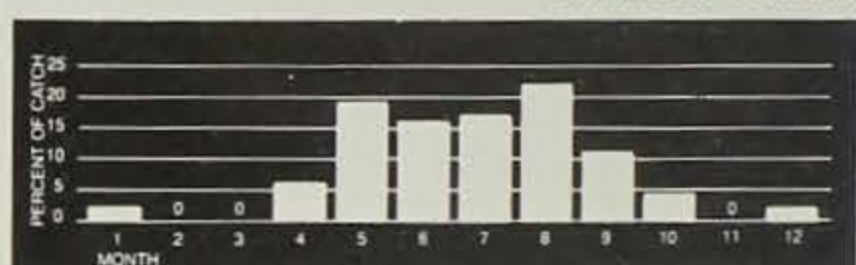
Bluegill



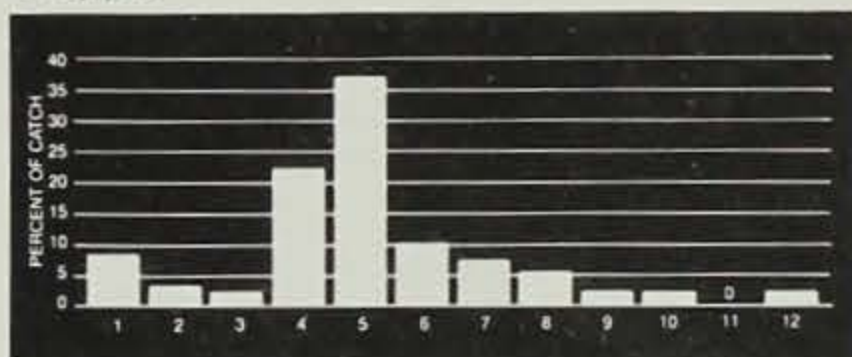
Walleye



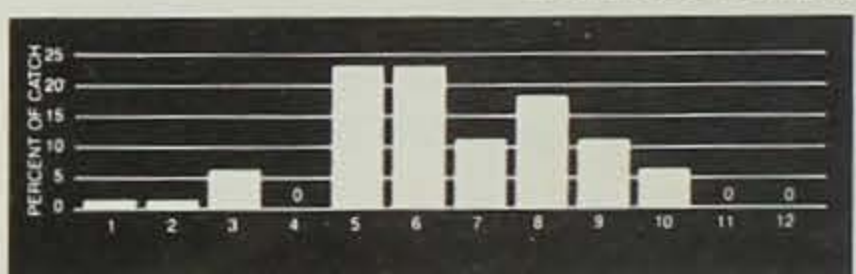
Channel Catfish



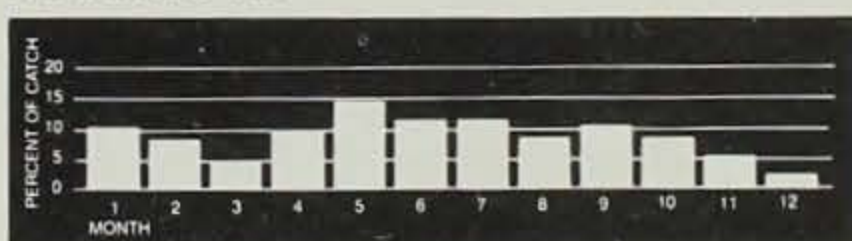
Crappie



Flathead Catfish



Northern Pike

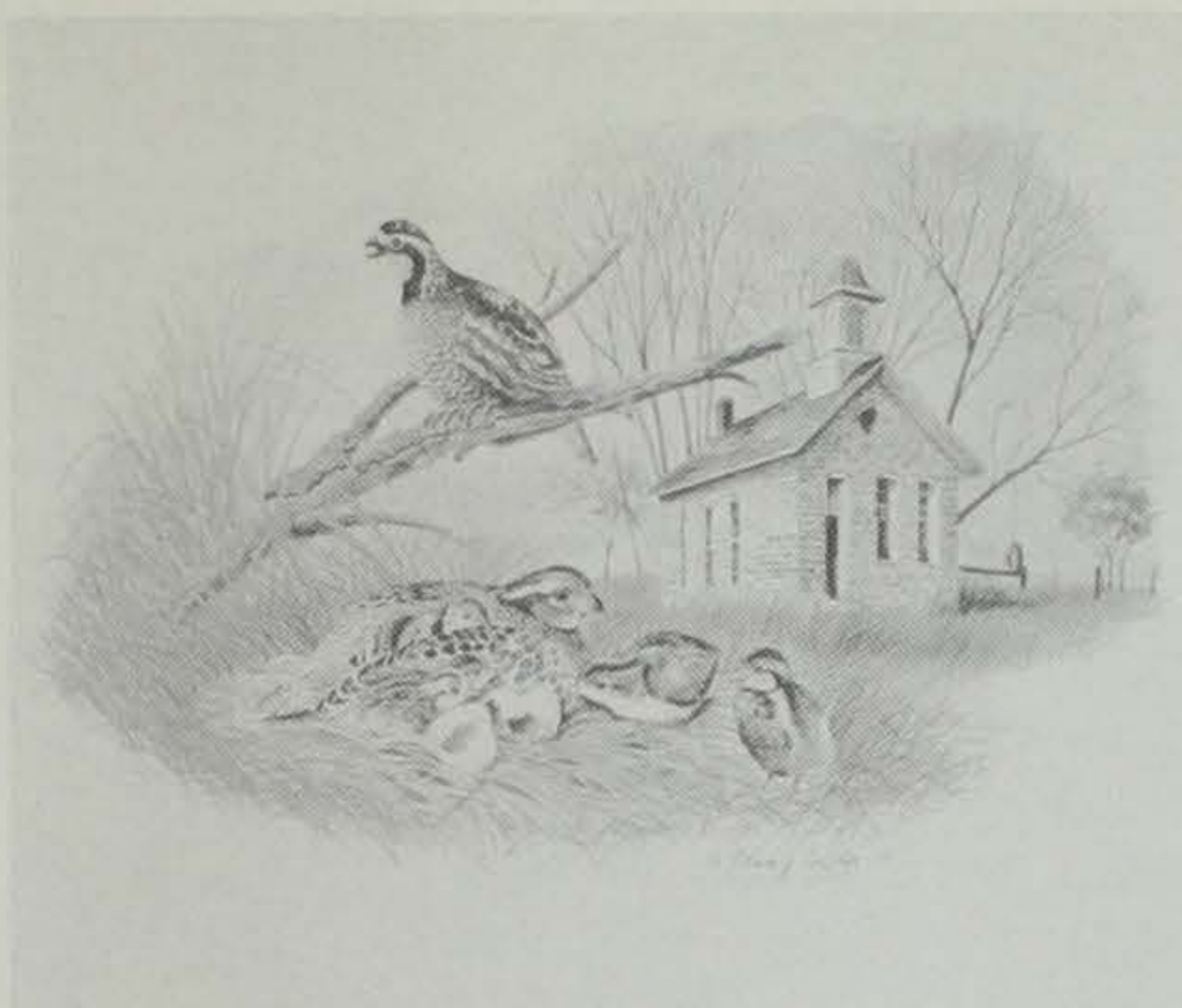


On November 17, 1981, a six acre natural prairie was dedicated in remembrance of William C. Brabham, former director of the Iowa Conservation Commission. Brabham died January 1980 after serving 29 years in employment with the Iowa Conservation Commission. The prairie is located at Saylorville Reservoir, just south of the visitors center and is clearly marked with a large stone and plaque. The plaque is inscribed as follows:

THIS NATURAL PRAIRIE
DEDICATED TO
WM. C. BRABHAM
A DEDICATED CONSERVATIONIST
Sponsored by
Rock Island District Corps of Engineers
and
Des Moines Chapter Izaak Walton League

PHOTO BY RON JOHNSON





CLASSROOM CORNER

By Bob Rye

ADMINISTRATOR, CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

For wildlife, spring is a time when young are produced to fill a void created by a year of hazards. The effect of winter, predators, accidents, diseases, and other such factors has left most animal groups at their lowest level. Spring brings a time when habitat, too, is beginning its annual renewal.

By now most birds are well into their nesting activities. Within the next month, the first young of rabbits, foxes, some owls, and possibly even a deer may be seen. For mammals and birds, plus most reptiles and amphibians, it is no accident that young arrive with the warming days and increasing availability of food and cover. This is the time when the necessities of life are most likely to be found and the greatest amount of time is available to grow and strengthen before the hazards of migration, hibernation, and winter confront them.

The number of young each species produces is related to a number of factors. One of these is size. The larger the animal, the fewer young it will have. The large animals generally face fewer hazards from predators.

Defense mechanisms also affect the reproduction ratio. A spotted skunk has four to five young once a year. The defenseless rabbit, which is about the same size, has up to eight young, four to six times a year.

A third example to show why some species produce many young and others don't could be labeled efficiency of breeding. Mammals give birth to live offspring, have a very low birth rate and high success rate. Birds lay eggs and care for them — this is less efficient and has a moderate mortality rate. Fish are

an example of low efficiency. They lay the eggs and then abandon them — millions of eggs are laid to produce two adults the next year.

An activity that can be done in class involves a common Iowa bird — the Bobwhite Quail. The activity shows how factors such as defenses, loss of young to weather and diseases, reduce the population to what the habitat can support. It also helps participants understand why the animal must produce many young so that two adults will exist next year.

The activity uses math skills to determine the quail population on a 160 acre area. Background information that needs to be presented to the students includes: 1. Wildlife mortality, though unpleasant, is reality; 2. Quail populations will lose 80% of maximum habitat density; 3. Wildlife cannot be stockpiled; A hypothetical situation — 160 acres with 5 coveys of quail — 20 birds in each covey. (This is peak population after hatching).

- Have students determine the total quail population.
- Have students figure the number that will survive the winter.
- Have students figure how many quail will die.
- Have students write down the peak population number (100) and then subtract each mortality number as it's read (use chart)
- Have students group and graph mortalities by causes: accidents, predation, natural causes, habitat destruction and hunting.

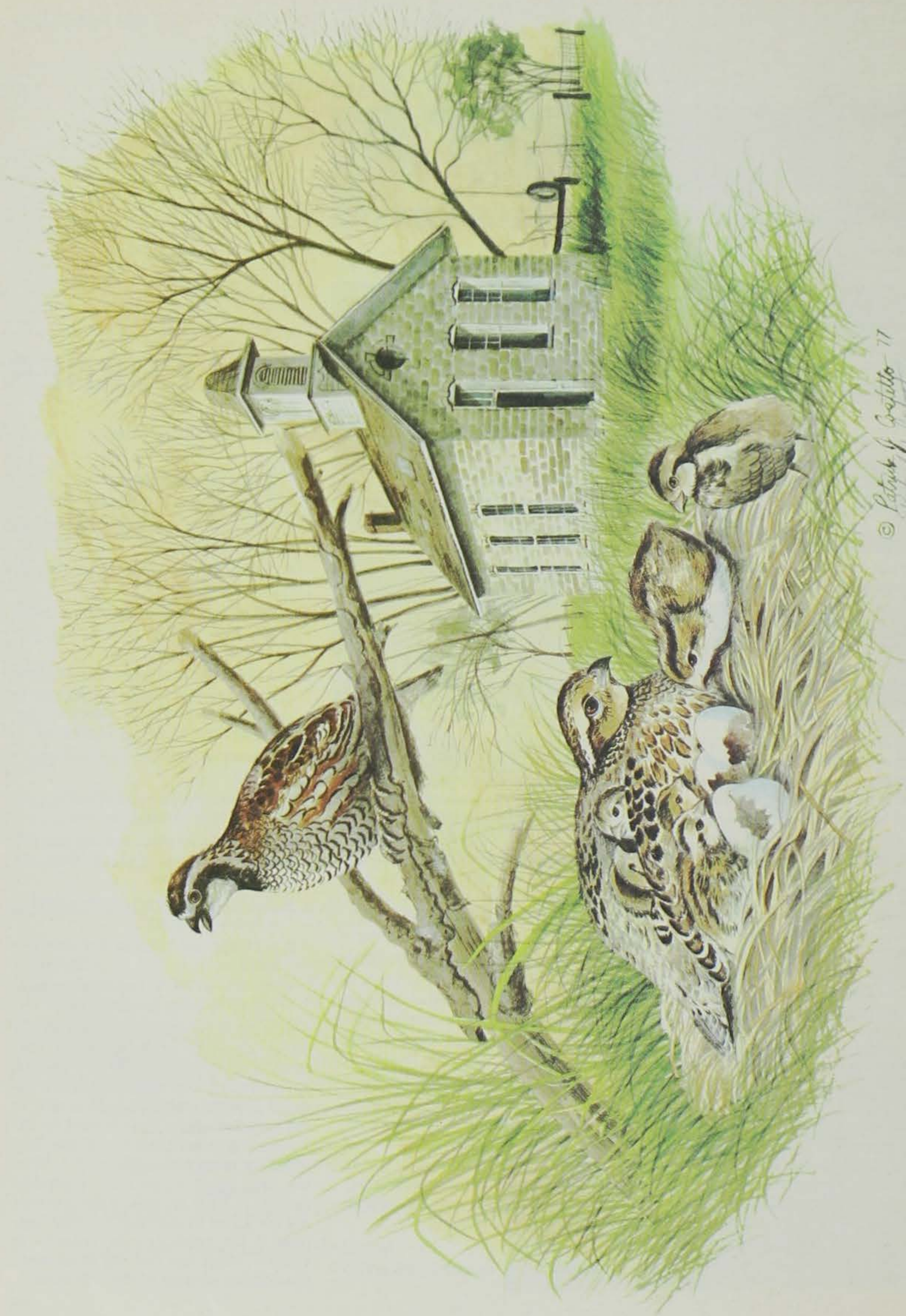
Mortality causes:

- Five quail are caught in torrential

spring rain and drown.

- A coyote eats three birds.
- Your pet cat kills four birds on one of its excursions.
- Two birds are killed when they fly into the fence.
- Because of lack of summer rainfall, the food supply is low and four weaker quail die.
- A grass fire burns one-fourth of the area, and seven birds are burned to death. Eleven die of starvation because their food was burned off.
- Disease spread through a covey — killing 13.
- One quail was hit and killed by a car as the bird crossed the road.
- Your dad takes you hunting and you shoot six quail and eat them for supper.
- Twelve die from exposure following a heavy snow fall.
- A hungry fox catches and eats two quail.
- An ice storm covers the ground killing 10 weak birds.

This activity may be concluded with a discussion which would include: 1. Carrying capacity of the land is 20. If we limit the mortality, why won't it benefit the quail? 2. What would happen if 40% of the birds live where there is food for 20? 3. What are the chances of the 20% surviving being the healthiest? 4. What are the most significant mortality causes? 5. What happens if the six birds are not killed by hunters? 6. What happens if the population is reduced to eight? 7. What can man do to increase the number of quail in this 100 acres?



© Patrick J. Costello '77
Patented 1977